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STATE FOR INR/AMR, NEA/INS

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: KAMR PROP

SUBJECT: DISINFORMATION: NATO HAND IN PALME MURDER

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 5, THE BOMBAY EDITION OF THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "INDIAN EXPRESS" AND INDEPENDENT BOMBAY DAILY "FREE PRESS JOURNAL" CARRIED A STOCKHOLM-DATELINED UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) STORY ALLEGING THAT NATO'S SUPER SECRET UNDERCOVER AGENCY, UNCLASSIFIED

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SOPS, HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME. THE UNI STORY WAS BASED ON A REPORT THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE SWEDISH DAILY "DAGENS NYHETER." THE STORY ALSO SAID THAT THE SWEDISH DAILY HAD ACCUSED AN EX-CIA AGENT, OSWALD LEWINTER OF BEING THE BRAIN BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY

2. THE TEXT OF "FREE PRESS JOURNAL" REPORT FOLLOWS:

-- (BEGIN QUOTE) "A REPORT IN THE SWEDISH DAILY "DAGENS

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NYHETER" HAS ACCUSED NATO'S SUPER SECRET UNDERCOVER AGENCY OF ASSASSINATING SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME SIX YEARS AGO, REPORTS UNI.

- 3. "THE REPORT SIGNED BY GNRAIN BACKERUS SAYS THE BASIC MOTIVE FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE FEB. 28 ASSASSINATION WAS PALME'S PLANNED VISIT TO MOSCOW IN SPRING.
- 4. "THE REPORT HAS IDENTIFIED THE NATO BODY AS SOPS-SPECIAL OPERATIONS PLANNING STAFF- WHICH FORMS PART OF ACC OR ALLIED CLANDESTINE COMMITTEE. A SORT OF UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR THE SECRET SERVICES OF NATO COUNTRIES.
- 5. "A THIRD OUTFIT KNOWN AS THE ITAC INTELLIGENCE TACTICAL ASSESSMENT CENTER ASSISTS SOPS WITH INFORMATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.
- 6. "THE REPORT COMES IN THE WAKE OF A NUMBER OF CONTROVERSIAL THEORIES ADVANCED BY BOTH OFFICIAL AND NONOFFICIAL AGENCIES.

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- 7. "ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER OF 1985, PALME WAS APPARENTLY EXTENDED AN INFORMAL INVITATION TO MEET SOVIET LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. PALME ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO VISIT MOSCOW...(AND) DREW UP A PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR THE MEETING.
- 8. "ACCORDING TO THE UNDERCOVER SOURCES, ONE OF THE POINTS IN AGENDA WAS THE QUESTION OF SOVIET GUARANTEES FOR A NEUTRAL NORDIC REGION IN AN ATOMIC (NUCLEAR) FREE ZONE OR IN OTHER WORDS, A NORDIC REGION IN WHICH DENMARK AND NORWAY WOULD HAVE ABANDONED NATO.
- 9. "NATO REPORTEDLY LEARNT ABOUT THE AGENDA THROUGH A LEAK IN THE CABINET COMMITTEE. DURING VARIOUS SESSIONS OF THE ACC/SOPS THE PLOT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN HATCHED. THE FINAL PLANS FOR THE ASSASSINATION, THE REPORT SAYS, MATURED BY DECEMBER 1985. ACCORDING TO AN APPARENTLY FALSIFIED DOCUMENT THAT THE DAILY HAD EXAMINED, A CERTAIN SWEDISH CITIZEN WAS ASSIGNED TO RECRUIT A HIT MAN IN BEIRUT. THE OPERATION WAS CODENAMED 'TREE'.
- 10. "THE REPORT SAYS THE DELEGATES OF ACC/SOPS MEET REGULARLY EVERY MONTH IN DIFFERENT EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

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THE HEADQUARTERS ARE REPORTEDLY BASED IN BRUSSELS....

11. "EVEN A SOURCE WITHIN THE SWEDISH MILITARY UNDERCOVER SERVICE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADMITTED ACC/SOPS CONNECTION. THE REPORT...HAS ACCUSED AN EX-CIA AGENT. OSWALD LEWINTER ALIAS IBRAHIM RAZIN. OF BEING THE MASTER BRAIN OF THE ASSASSINATION.

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12. "ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE EVIDENCE. HE ALSO SERVED AS CHIEF OF ITAC IN 1984. RAZIN HAD OPENLY ADMITTED IN 1988, THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN A DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT HIDING REAGAN'S AND BUSH'S INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS 'OCTOBER SURPRISE'. THIS WAS AN OPERATION DIRECTED TO HINDER THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN AS LONG AS JIMMY CARTER CONTINUED AS AMERICAN PRESIDENT." (END QUOTE) DACHI

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

